

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 15, 2018

Agenda Item: 2018-2019 Black Bear/Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 Min

Background

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. Changes from the December meeting are highlighted.

FWP proposes two changes to black bear and mountain lion regulations:

- 1) Black Bear BMU 700: Increase spring quota from 2 to 4.
Change the BMU 580/700 boundary consistent with proposed deer/elk boundary change.
- 2) Mountain Lion HD 124: Increase quota from 5 (male subquota 2) to 7 (male subquota 2).

Except for calendar rotation, all other elements of the 2017 regulations are to remain unchanged.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Comments were received during the Aug. 20 – Sept. 21 public scoping. There were few comments about black bears, but several about too many lions. Public comment on proposed season structure changes ran from Dec. 7 to Jan. 24. We received 1 comment on black bears, 3 about grizzly bears and 5 on lions. Bear comments spoke to a June 15th end to the spring season statewide, the need for a grizzly season, mistaken killing of grizzlies, and opposition to the spring season, and other points. In general, mountain lion comments spoke to the need for more harvest.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2017 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends the Commission adopt the 2018 and 2019 Black Bear and Mountain Lion as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of these seasons remain unchanged.

Proposed Motion

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the 2018 and 2019 Black Bear and Mountain Lion as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of these seasons remain unchanged.